LEX LUTHOR
MAN OF STEEL®

NO. 2
(OF 5)
JUNE '05

BRIAN
AZZARELLO

LEE
BERMEJO

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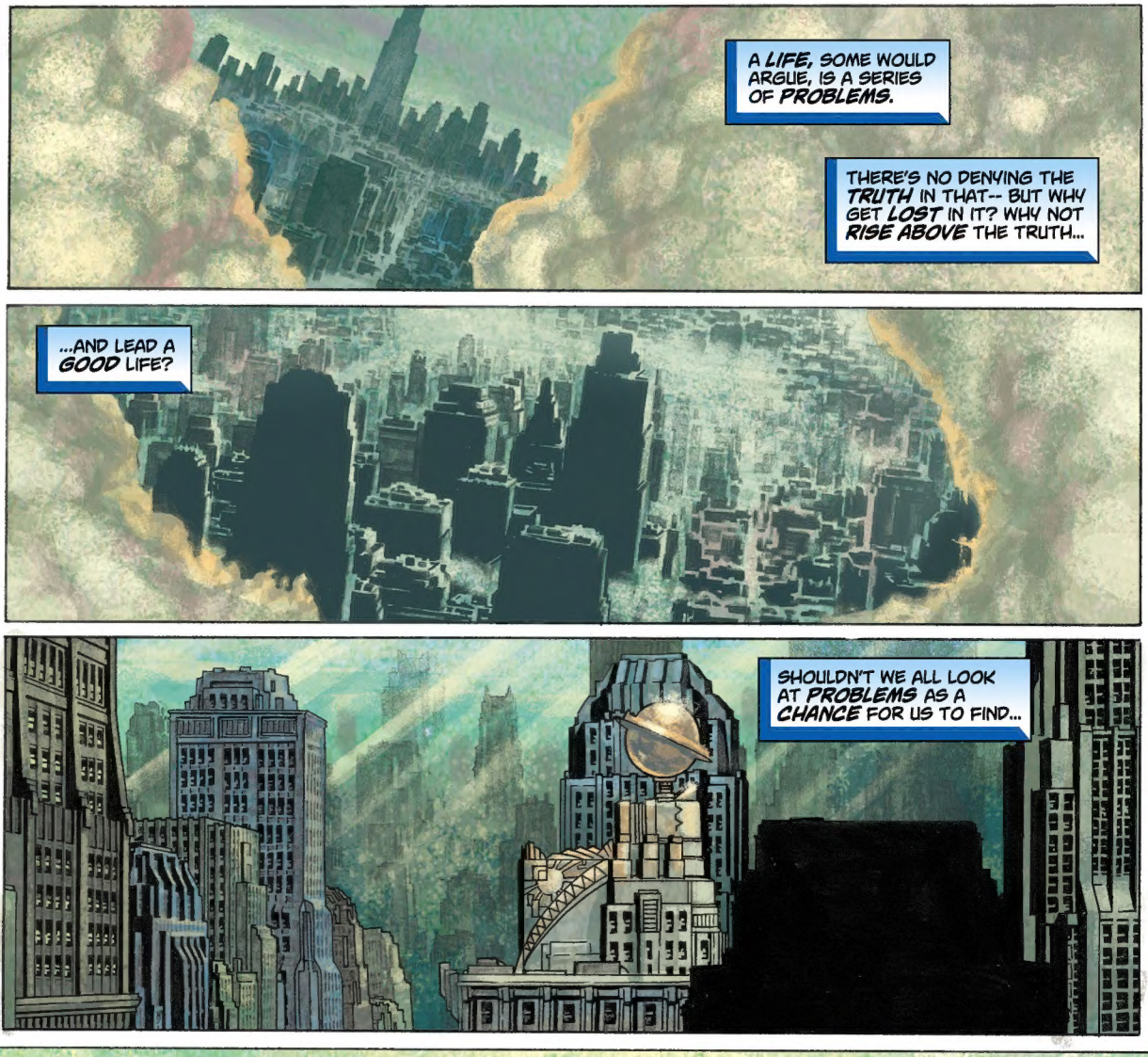
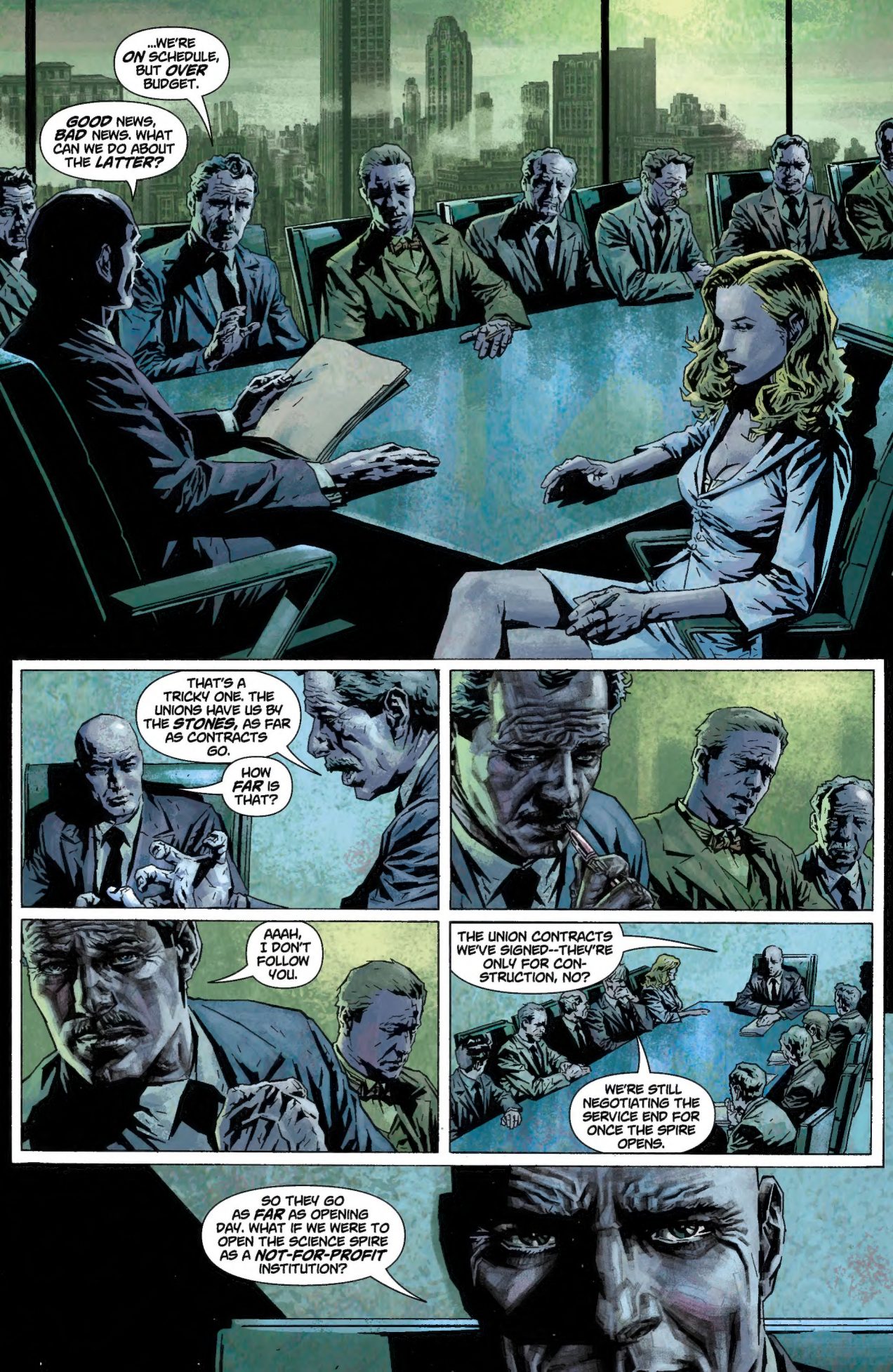

A LIFE, SOME WOULD ARGUE, IS A SERIES OF PROBLEMS.
THERE'S NO DENYING THE TRUTH IN THAT-- BUT WHY GET LOST IN IT? WHY NOT RISE ABOVE THE TRUTH...
...AND LEAD A GOOD LIFE?
SHOULDN'T WE ALL LOOK AT PROBLEMS AS A CHANCE FOR US TO FIND...
...SOLUTIONS?


...WE'RE ON SCHEDULE, BUT OVER BUDGET.
GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE LATTER?
THAT'S A TRICKY ONE. THE UNIONS HAVE US BY THE STONES, AS FAR AS CONTRACTS GO.
HOW FAR IS THAT?
AAAH, I DON'T FOLLOW YOU.
THE UNION CONTRACTS WE'VE SIGNED--THEY'RE ONLY FOR CONSTRUCTION, NO?
WE'RE STILL NEGOTIATING THE SERVICE END FOR ONCE THE SPIRE OPENS.
SO THEY GO AS FAR AS OPENING DAY. WHAT IF WE WERE TO OPEN THE SCIENCE SPIRE AS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTION?

YOU MEAN CUT THE UNIONS OUT ONCE WE'RE UP AND RUNNING? THAT WOULD TAKE SOME DOING. WE'D HAVE TO GET GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL, AND TAKE OUR CURRENT BUSINESS PLAN OFF THE TABLE.
DONE.
HOLD ON A SECOND, LEX. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HERE...
EXACTLY.
LET OUR UNION REP KNOW.
HAVE A PROFITABLE DAY, GENTLEMEN.

YOU'RE TAKING ON A REAL HARD BALLER HERE, LEX.
AM I, MONA?
TONY AMONTE DOESN'T PLAY GAMES. HE CAME UP THROUGH THE UNION THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, WHICH MEANS HE WON'T BACK DOWN OR RENEGOTIATE THE CON--
AMONTE WILL DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THE UNIONS--THAT'S HIS JOB.
OKAY, BUT WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR ISN'T BEST FOR THE UNIONS...
...OR LEXCORP.
WHAT I'M EXPECTING IS THAT HE DOES HIS JOB.
IN THE LONG RUN, THAT'LL BE BEST FOR EVERY-ONE.

GOOD MORNING, SERGEI.
LEX! HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
BUSY.
IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?
IT'S AN EXCUSE.
HOW'S YOUR PATIENT?
MINE? NO. OURS IS...

...INCREDIBLE.

STUNNINGLY SO.

Lex Luthor: Man of Steel

SUPERMAN *created by* JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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CAN I SPEAK WITH HER?
CERTAINLY. GIVE ME JUST ONE SECOND...
GO AHEAD.
IT'S LEX.
LEX. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
I'M...
...WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ME?

HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE.
AM I?
VERY MUCH SO. EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, I'M OVER-WHELMED.
YOU SHOULD SEE ME MORE OFTEN, THEN.
I'M...
BUSY.
HOW IS DOCTOR FEDEROV TREATING YOU?
HE'S MAKING ME BETTER.
I PROMISED YOU HE WOULD.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
HOW DO YOU THINK?

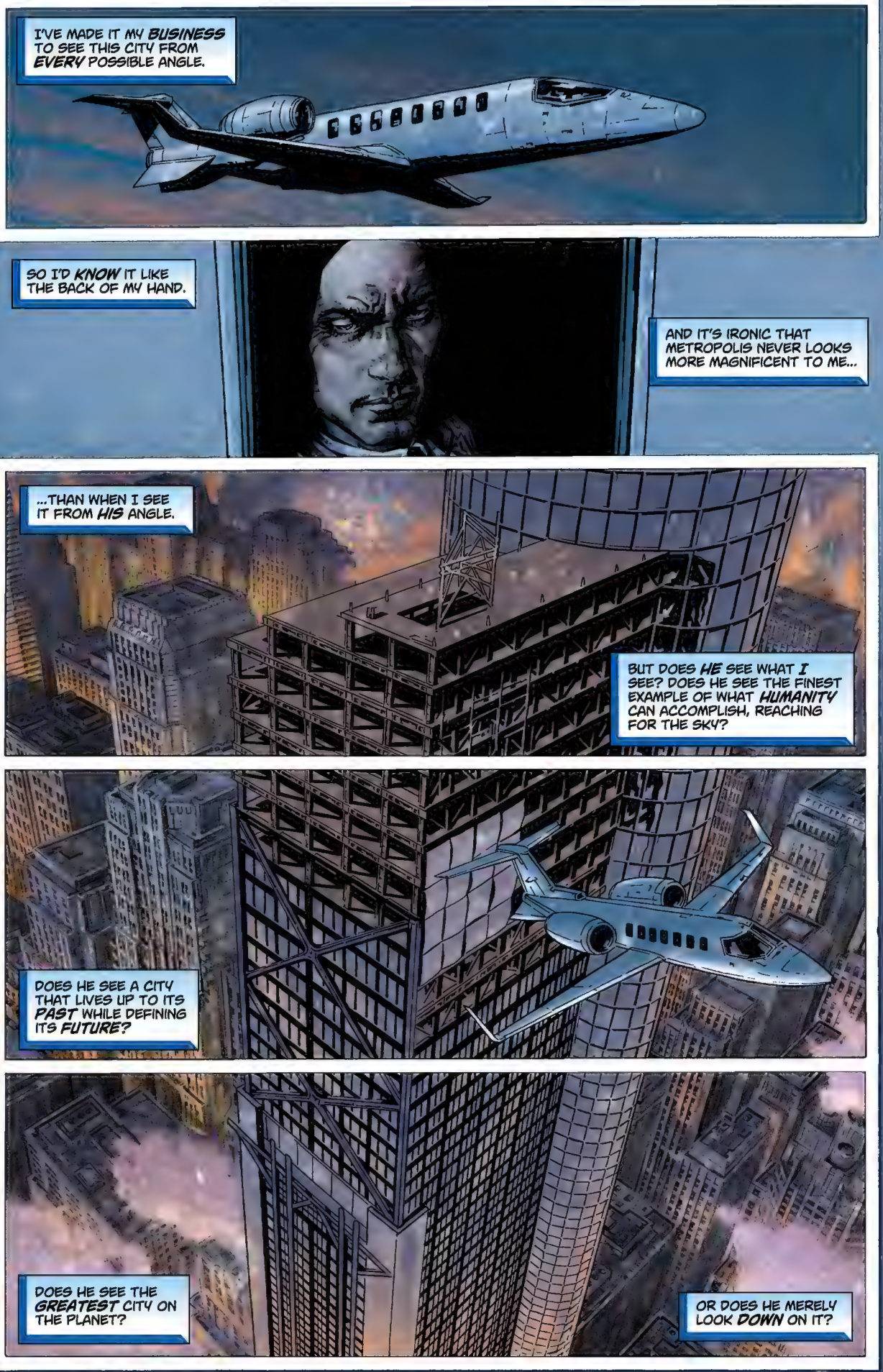
I'LL TALK TO YOU TO-MORROW.
SO...
...SOMEONE'S GOT A CRUSH HERE.
WHO DO YOU MEAN, MONA?
SERGEI?
I'VE DONE WHAT I CAN. THE REST IS IN--
DON'T SAY GOD'S HANDS.
I'M NOT THAT KIND OF DREAMER.
I WAS GOING TO SAY YOURS.
SHE SEEMS...
...SHE'S NOT.
I'M SORRY.

BUT SHE WILL BE?
LEX, I'M A DOCTOR-- JUST A SCIENTIST-- I HAVE ONLY THEORIES.
WHAT YOU WANT, THIS REQUIRES...
MORE.
THEN I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD EVERY-THING.
YOU IMAGINED I DID, SERGEI. AND IMAGE...
...IS NEVER EVERYTHING.

SOLUTIONS ARE NOT EASY TO COME BY. THEY DON'T PRESENT THEMSELVES, NEATLY WRAPPED IN COLORFUL PAPER.
LIKE ANY THING OF VALUE, THEY HAVE TO BE DUG FOR, SOMETIMES IN THE HARDEST GROUND TO BREAK...
...ONE'S OWN HUMAN CLAY.
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, MINING ONE'S SELF LEADS TO FOOL'S GOLD, UNLESS THE PICK IS TAKEN TO ONE'S PRIDE. ONE MUST BREAK OFF A CHUNK, AND SWALLOW IT...
...A BITTER PILL, FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.
I'LL BE GETTING IN LATE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO MEET ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO. BUT DINNER SOUNDS NICE. AND IT'S JUST DINNER, RIGHT?
I MEAN YOU HAVE A REPUTATION.
NO SURPRISES, OKAY?

GREAT. I'LL SEE YOU THEN.
CLICK
WE GOT A NO-GO WITH AMONTE.
LET ME KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
NO TO SECOND SHIFTS WITHOUT OVERTIME.
NO TO ANY NEW HIRES WORKING THOSE SHIFTS.
AND YES TO A WORK STOPPAGE IF WE GO NOT-FOR-PROFIT.
SO HE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY FAIR.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO. HE HAS A CONTRACT.
SO DO I.
AND NOT JUST WITH HIM.

THIS CAN'T WAIT?
IT CAN, BUT WHY LET IT?
DON'T WORRY, MONA. I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT.
DON'T WORRY? YOU'RE LEAVING METROPOLIS WITH A LOT OF IMPORTANT THINGS UP IN THE AIR RIGHT NOW.
WELL I'M ABOUT TO JOIN THEM. AND I HAVE A FEELING, BY THE TIME I TOUCH DOWN TOMORROW NIGHT, THEY'LL ALL BE WITH ME.
SINCE WHEN DO YOU HAVE FEELINGS?
I'VE GOT FEELINGS, MONA. I JUST KEEP THEM HIDDEN, IS ALL.
RIGHT NEXT TO ALL THE ACES UP YOUR SLEEVE?
BETTER UNDER THE SLEEVE THAN ON IT.


I'VE MADE IT MY BUSINESS TO SEE THIS CITY FROM EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE.
SO I'D KNOW IT LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND.
AND IT'S IRONIC THAT METROPOLIS NEVER LOOKS MORE MAGNIFICENT TO ME...
...THAN WHEN I SEE IT FROM HIS ANGLE.
BUT DOES HE SEE WHAT I SEE? DOES HE SEE THE FINEST EXAMPLE OF WHAT HUMANITY CAN ACCOMPLISH, REACHING FOR THE SKY?
DOES HE SEE A CITY THAT LIVES UP TO ITS PAST WHILE DEFINING ITS FUTURE?
DOES HE SEE THE GREATEST CITY ON THE PLANET?
OR DOES HE MERELY LOOK DOWN ON IT?

WHATEVER I CAN DO TO HELP YOU NAIL LEX LUTHOR, YOU GOT IT AND AN EXTRA YARD.
THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR CO-OPERATION, MR. AMONTE. AS I TOLD YOU, THE ALLEGATIONS ARE SERIOUS.
THAT FAT CAT DON'T JUST WANT TO CUT US OUT OF OUR DUE, BUT HE'S GIVING US SUB-STANDARD TOOLS TO DO OUR JOB? MAN, IF THAT DON'T TAKE THE CAKE.
AND EAT IT TOO.
HUH?
OH, I GET IT.
HERE WE ARE. YOU WATCH YOUR STEP, OKAY?
SO SHOULD YOU.

ME? DON'T LET THE SUIT FOOL YOU--I'M A STEEL MONKEY. THERE AIN'T A HIGH-RISE BUILT THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN METROPOLIS DON'T HAVE A RIVET WITH MY FINGERPRINTS ON IT.
SO WHY'D YOU GET INVOLVED IN UNION ADMINI-STRATION?
WELL, I WON'T SAY IT'S EASIER--OR MORE PERSONALLY REWARDING--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT LOOKING OUT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
IN MY LINE OF WORK? YEAH, I DO.
I LIKE TO SAY, I STARTED UP HERE--AT THE TOP--AND WORKED MY WAY DOWN.
THAT'S A LONG WAY TO GO.
YOU HAVE KIDS?
SURE DO. TWO DAUGHTERS.

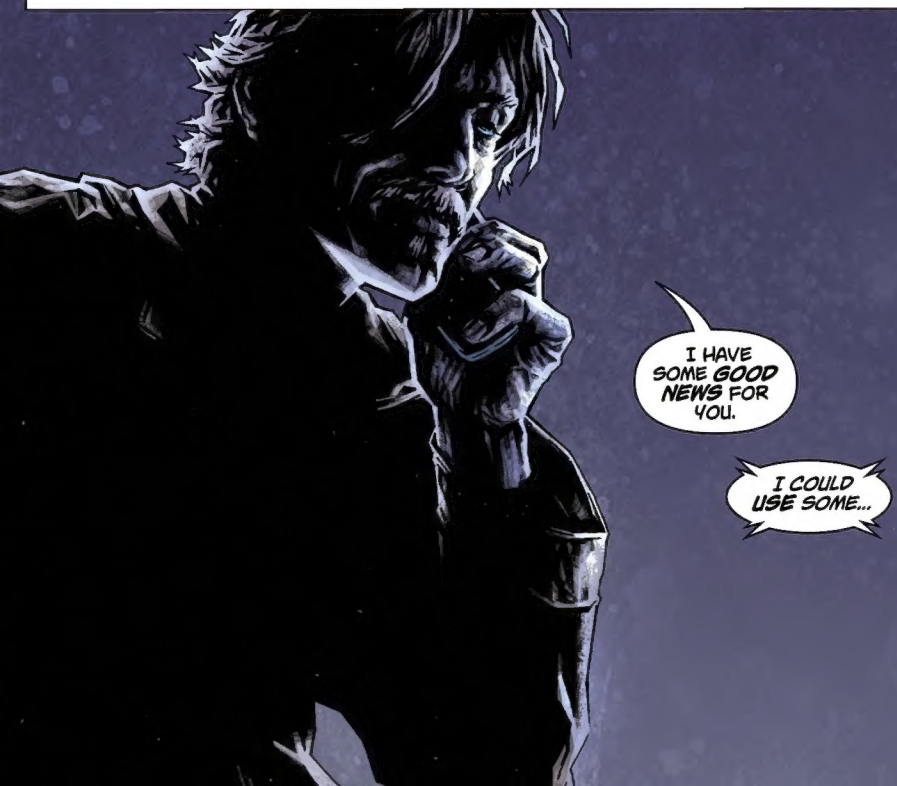
WHACK
UHuh
WELL, THE TOOLS CHECK OUT. NO PROBLEM...
...THERE. BUT, YOU... THAT PROPOSAL YOU REJECTED TODAY...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO RECONSIDER IT.
NOW, I'M NOT SAYING YOU SHOULD DO THIS TO LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF--THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'D BE THINKING ABOUT ANYONE ELSE IN A SITUATION LIKE WE HAVE HERE.
I WON'T SCREW MY MEN...
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO...
BUT I'M TELLING YOU I WILL SCREW...
...PATTY AND EMILY. AND WHEN I'M DONE...

WE'LL BE LANDING SHORTLY, MR. LUTHOR. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN GET YOU?
NO, THANK YOU MARLENE.
WELL THEN I'M GONNA GO STRAP IN.

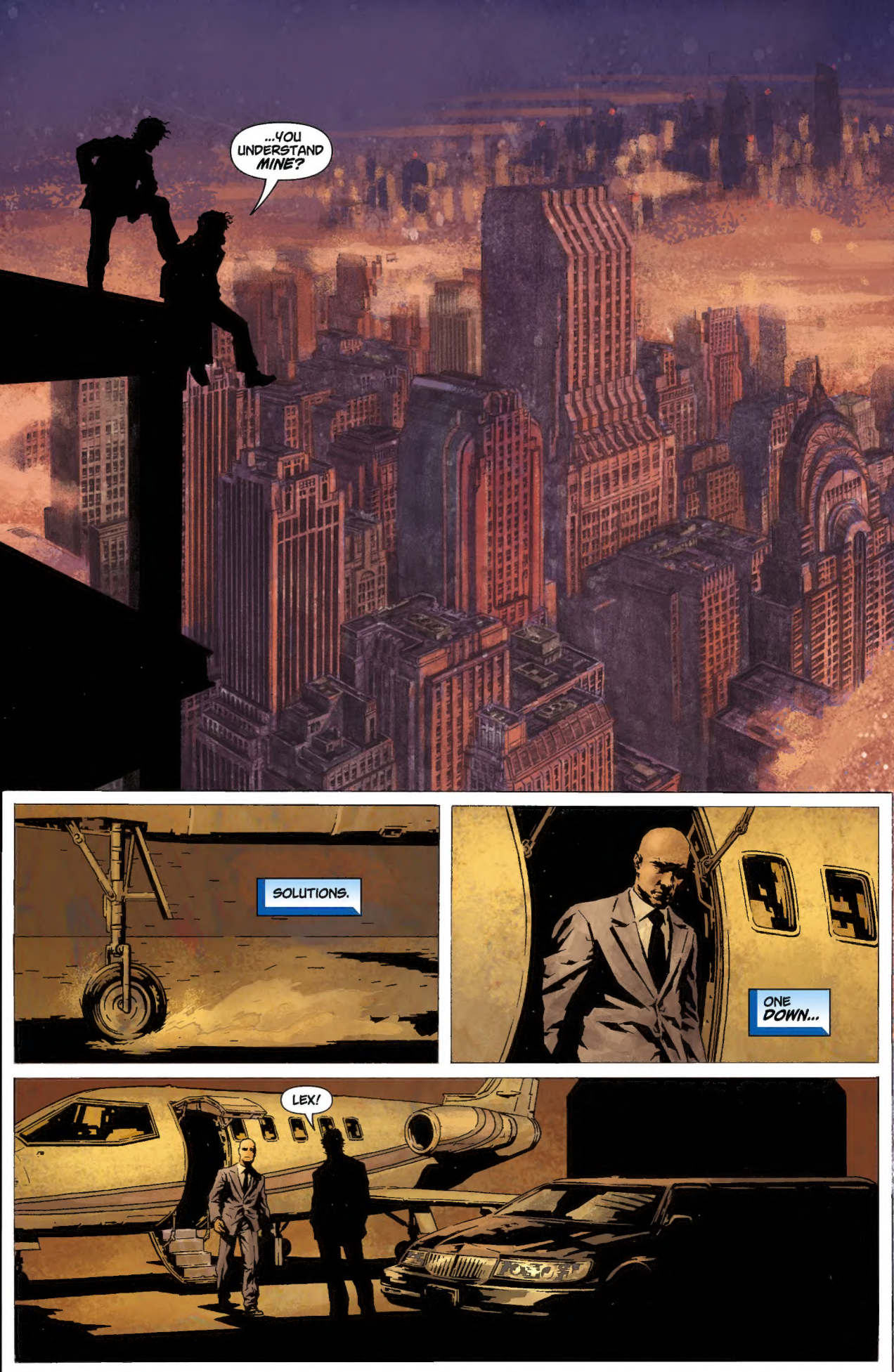
...SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW?

NAH, I JUST HATE FLYING INTO THIS AIRPORT. THE APPROACH IS SO SEVERE, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEING SUCKED INTO THIS CITY.
BD-DEED
BD-DEED

MR. ORR...


I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.
I COULD USE SOME...

I'LL RENEGOTIATE THE CONTRACTS.
MR. AMONTE? I APPRECIATE THAT, VERY MUCH. PERHAPS WE CAN DO SOMETHING ON THE BACK END, MAKE THINGS UP TO YOUR PEOPLE.
OF COURSE. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SENSITIVE TO THE UNIONS.
BUT SOME OF THE UNFORESEEN COSTS WE'VE EXPERIENCED WITH THE SPIRE'S CONSTRUCTION...
THAT WOULD BE...WE'LL BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THIS?
...YOU UNDERSTAND MY POSITION?
SURE, MR. LUTHOR...


...YOU UNDERSTAND MINE?
SOLUTIONS.
ONE DOWN...
LEX!

ONE TO GO.
WELCOME TO GOTHAM CITY.
ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE YOU, BRUCE.
continued...